

# *The Desert* SUSTAINER

December 17, 2003

*Serving the soldiers of LSA Anaconda and Sustainer Army Airfield*

## Building the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps Securing peaceful future

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Christopher Fincham

### 3d COSCOM Public Affairs Office

Local nationals report to the gates of Logistical Support Area Anaconda every day for everything from masonry work or plumbing to painting or cleaning.

More and more though, are coming to the gates to train and to serve in the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps.

Kaiser Abd, who was a student before the war, now trains daily on Anaconda with the ICDC.

"I've learned a lot...about self-defense and how to react to different enemy," said Abd through an interpreter.

The training, modeled after the U.S. military standards, is overseen by Command Sgt. Major Barry Maieritsch, command sergeant major of 27th Transportation Battalion.

The course is scheduled to take the students through two weeks of various tasks and simulations. These will teach them how to perform the duties that they will be performing as well as instill the discipline necessary for their responsibilities.

"Everyday they're learning things," said Maieritsch. "From basic self-defense to vehicle search techniques and D&C[drill and ceremony]."

These skills will eventually be put to use in various aspects of Anaconda's defense, according to Maieritsch.

"Basically we're going to have the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps graduates supplement us in the towers and at the gates so that we can further enhance the force protection measures that we have in place," explained Maieritsch.

To doubters, Maieritsch cites the success of the Security Force, made up of Iraqi nationals, who work at the gates searching vehicles for contraband.

"They have proven to be very efficient - even better in some cases - at finding things than the soldiers that we have on the gates that are not regularly trained on vehicle searches," Maieritsch said.

"The goal is that at some point during OIF II when the whole battalion gets stood up, many of these men will be walking and riding side by side with the infantry soldiers," said Maieritsch. "Going into villages so that the Iraqi locals see Iraqi and American military working together to keep the peace and stabilize the nation."

This process, says Maieritsch, is essential to the future of a peaceful Iraq and key to establishing a strong relationship.

"Until the local people see their people next to ours, keeping the peace, we can't build trust," said Maieritsch.



Trainees learn drill and ceremony, modeled after British military styles. (Left) Along with self defense and searches, trainees are also taught basic Arabic reading and writing classes before graduating from the ICDC course.

# USO TOUR TODAY

A United Services Organization Tour featuring Robin Williams will be entertaining troops on LSA Anaconda, today.

The show, also featuring Kurt Angle, Mike Wallace and Lean Tweedon, will take place at the hangar on Sapper Lane behind dining facility two.

Soldiers attending are encouraged to bring their own chairs or they will be forced to stand.

A pedestrian gate on the hangar's east side will be open at 11:30 a.m. for troops to begin entering the hangar.

The show is scheduled to begin at 1:30 p.m.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade Christmas Eve 5K Run

**8:00 a.m. Wednesday December 24, 2003**  
**Balad Southeast Airfield**

**LOCATION:** 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Brigade Headquarters

**REGISTRATION:** Open to first 1,000 people who Register / Register by December 22, 2003 / NO Race Day Registration / Registration Form Turn-in at the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Bde HQ, the 3-158<sup>th</sup> BN TOC, or the Anaconda Gym

**POST RUN PARTY** behind 12<sup>th</sup> Avn Bde Headquarters

**SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE** at the MWR tents starting at 7:00 a.m.

**T-SHIRTS:** \$10 for run shirt at packet pickup and race day

**POINT OF CONTACT:** Warrant Officer 1 Nelson @ 558-01964 or Maj. Warner @ 559-2410

## Army offering bonus to soldiers reclassing as respiratory therapists

WASHINGTON, D.C. (Army News Service, Dec. 12, 2003) – A shortage of respiratory therapists has the Army offering bonuses to Soldiers who will reclassify into the 91V military occupation specialty

The bonus money is available to specialists and sergeants who meet the requirements for the MOS and complete the Bonus Extension and Retraining, or Bear, program, said Lt. Col. Wendy Martinson, chief of health services for enlisted personnel.

The Army is authorized to have 238 respiratory therapists; there were 207 at the end of fiscal year 2003, Martinson said.

"This is a critical shortage because it's such a small density MOS," said Martinson. "So when we're short a few, it makes a large impact."

The formula for determining the bonus is half a specialist's base pay, or a sergeant's full base pay, multiplied by the number of years the Soldier re-enlists for in the new MOS.

Martinson knows of infantry Soldiers, ammunition handlers and bridge builders transferring from those jobs into 91V.

"Having a medical background is not a prerequisite," said Martinson. "Having a desire would be."

The program that earns a Soldier the 91V MOS is broken into two phases, Martinson said. The first is 20 weeks at the Army Medical Department and School at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. The second, 16 weeks, is completed at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas.

The school holds three classes each

year, with an average of 22 students in each class. Not everyone makes it through, Martinson acknowledged.

"There is a high attrition rate," she said. "About one-fourth of each class doesn't make it."

But once Soldiers are in the MOS, statistics show they stay in it, Martinson noted. The retention rate for initial entry is 88 percent, compared to the Army-wide retention rate of 58 percent. At the mid-term level, the retention rate for 91Vs is 75 percent, compared to 72 percent Army-wide. The Army's retention rate for careerists is 61 percent; the rate for respiratory therapists is 1 percent higher.

For more information about reclassifying into the 91V MOS, see your post career counselor or visit: <http://appd.amedd.army.mil/enlisted/division.asp>

### TMC CLOSURE

The troop medical clinic will be closed on the following days except for emergency - life, limb or eyesight - situations:

Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25, and New Year's - Thursday, Jan. 1. For more information contact Maj. Douglas Olney at 318-528-1413.

### NEW PX HOURS

The Logistical Support Area Anaconda Post Exchange has new hours of operation. The facility will be open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. The PX will be open these hours seven days a week. The new hours provide extended shopping hours and will help facilitate soldiers shopping for the holiday season.

### RESERVE ID CARDS

Due to units being extended, many reservists' ID cards are set to expire. Units confronting this issue should contact Staff Sgt. Jonathon Trussell, 90th Personnel Support Battalion, to set up an appointment to renew their ID cards. Trussell can be reached at 551-9903. Amendment orders are needed for new IDs.

### CONTACT US

The Desert Sustainer is a newsletter compiled printed and published by the 3rd Corps Support Command Public Affairs Office. Please send any comments, suggestions, submissions or story ideas to us by email at [grant.calease@us.army.mil](mailto:grant.calease@us.army.mil), or call 558-2053, or stop by Bldg. 4137.

## Connecticut and Kentucky split top spots in polls

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Connecticut is back on top.

The No. 1 team in *The Associated Press* men's college basketball Top 25 changed for the fourth straight week, with the Huskies moving up one place Monday to reclaim their preseason spot.

The Huskies (7-1) were also No. 1 for the first two polls of the regular season. But their loss to Georgia Tech in the Preseason NIT led to a revolving door of top teams; Kansas and Florida also took turns leading the poll.

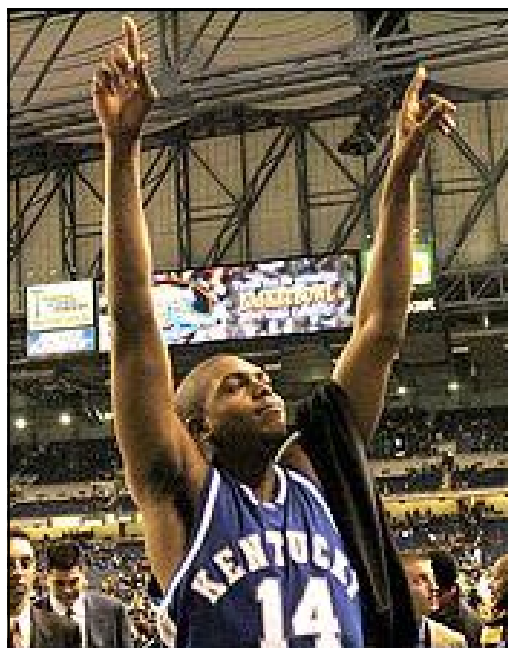
For the first time this season, there are different teams occupying the top spots in the polls, as Kentucky was tabbed No. 1 by The ESPN/Coach's Poll, as well as No. 2 by the AP.

"The way it is today, it's not even parity," Connecticut coach Jim Calhoun said Monday. "I disagree with those who say there are 30 to 40 teams that can win the title — it's still probably in the 10-to-12 neighborhood. But we have to wait to see who evolves out of the group."

Once again, Connecticut has the top team in both AP polls; its women's team has been No. 1 since the preseason.

### NCAA AP Top 20

1. UCONN
2. Kentucky
3. Duke
4. North Carolina
5. Georgia Tech
6. Kansas
7. Arizona
8. Oklahoma
9. Stanford
10. Missouri
11. St. Joseph's
11. Texas
13. Gonzaga
14. Wake Forest
15. Florida
16. Cincinnati
17. Purdue
18. Pittsburgh
19. Syracuse
20. Louisville



**Erik Daniels and the Wildcats looked like No. 1 with a 79-74 victory over No. 21 Michigan St.**

### NCAA Coach's Top 20

1. Kentucky
2. UCONN
3. Duke
4. North Carolina
5. Arizona
6. Georgia Tech
7. Kansas
8. Oklahoma
9. Wake Forest
10. Texas
11. Stanford
12. St. Joseph's
13. Florida
14. Missouri
15. Gonzaga
16. Cincinnati
17. Purdue
18. Wisconsin
19. Illinois
20. Pittsburgh

Florida (5-2) dropped 14 spots to No. 15 after losses to Maryland and Louisville, which both moved into the rankings Monday. They replace Michigan State and Iowa.

Duke (6-1) received one first-place vote and was No. 3, the first of three straight teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference.

No. 4 North Carolina (6-0) was first on six ballots, while No. 5 Georgia Tech (8-0) — unranked in the preseason — had 14 first-place votes.

Kansas, which fell from No. 1 after losing to Stanford, was sixth, followed by Arizona, Oklahoma, Stanford and Missouri.

## NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE	
ATLANTIC		MIDWEST	
76ers	—	Mavericks	—
Celtics	0.5	Spurs	0.5
Nets	0.5	Nuggets	1
Heat	3.5	T-wolves	1
Wizards	3.5	Rockets	1.5
Knicks	4.5	Grizzlies	2
Magic	8	Jazz	2
CENTRAL		PACIFIC	
Pacers	—	Lakers	—
Hornets	2	Kings	1
Pistons	4.5	Blazers	6
Raptors	5.5	Sonics	6
Bucks	7.5	Warriors	7
Bulls	11.5	Clippers	7.5
Hawks	12	Suns	10.5
Cavs	12.5		

## National Hockey League

EASTERN		WESTERN	
ATLANTIC		CENTRAL	
Flyers	43	Red Wings	42
Devils	39	Blues	39
Rangers	29	Predators	30
Islanders	27	Black Hawks	23
Penguins	20	Blue Jackets	22
NORTHEAST		NORTHWEST	
Maple Leafs	42	Canucks	39
Bruins	37	Avalanche	38
Senators	32	Flames	33
Canadiens	32	Oilers	29
Sabres	27	Wild	29
SOUTHEAST		PACIFIC	
Thrashers	36	Kings	34
Lightning	31	Sharks	32
Panthers	27	Mighty Ducks	29
Hurricanes	26	Coyotes	28
Capitals	20	Stars	28

## NFL Standings

AFC East		NFC East	
Patriots	12-2	Eagles	11-3
Dolphins	8-6	Cowboys	9-5
Bills	6-8	Redskins	5-9
Jets	6-8	Giants	4-10
West		West	
Chiefs	12-2	Rams	11-3
Broncos	9-5	Seahawks	8-6
Raiders	4-10	49ers	6-8
Chargers	3-11	Cardinals	3-11
North		North	
Ravens	8-6	Vikings	8-6
Bengals	8-6	Packers	8-6
Steelers	5-9	Bears	6-8
Browns	4-10	Lions	4-10
South		South	
Colts	11-3	Panthers	9-5
Titans	10-4	Saints	7-7
Texans	5-9	Buccaneers	7-7
Jaguars	4-10	Falcons	3-11